

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PARIS 03761 121625Z

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S E C R E T PARIS 03761

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, GW, NATO, FR

SUBJECT: NUNN AMENDMENT CONVERSION OF SUPPORT TO COMBAT
FORCES

REF: USNATO 0704

1. SUMMARY: WE SUGGEST THAT US NATO INFORM FRENCH
AMBASSADOR DE ROSE OF CURRENT DEVELOPMENTS CONCERNING
THE NUNN AMENDMENT AND THE 1975 REFORGER EXERCISE. END
SUMMARY.

2. IN ADDITION TO PROVIDING DPC PERMREPS WITH COPIES OF
SECRETARY SCHLESINGER'S LETTER TO SYG ON NUNN AMENDMENT
CONVERSION OF SUPPORT TO COMBAT FORCES (AS RECOMMENDED
IN REFTTEL, PARA 1), SUGGEST USNATOPASS INFORMALLY
TO FRENCH AMBASSADOR DE ROSE A COPY OF SECDEF'S LETTER.
WE HAVE DISCUSSED THE NUNN AMENDMENT WITH THE QUAI ON
SEVERAL OCCASIONS, AND QUAI OFFICIALS HAVE SHOWN SOME
INTEREST IN OUR PROGRESS CONCERNING THE NUNN AMENDMENT

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PAGE 02 PARIS 03761 121625Z

REQUIREMENTS. WE UNDERSTAND THAT FORMER FRENCH DEFENSE

MINISTER SOUFFLET WANTED TO IMPROVE FRENCH ARMED FORCES "TEETH-TO-TAIL" RATIO, AND WE SUSPECT THIS INTEREST WILL BE MAINTAINED BY THE NEW FRENCH DEFENSE MINISTER. EVIDENCE OF SUCCESSFUL U.S. EFFORTS TO IMPROVE COMBAT CAPABILITIES THUS WILL PROBABLY FIND AN AUDIENCE IN GOF.

3. SIMILARLY, WE WOULD HOPE THAT DE ROSE WILL BE KEPT INFORMED OF ANY ANTICIPATED CHANGES TO THE 1975 REFORGER EXERCISE (REFTEL PARA 2). IN THE PAST, WE HAVE SOUGHT TO INVOLVE FRENCH ARMED FORCES IN THE REFORGER EXERCISES. WHILE OUR TRACK RECORD TO DATE HAS BEEN MODEST, WE HOPE THAT THE FRENCH WILL PARTICIPATE IN THE 1975 REFORGER EXERCISE.

4. WE BELIEVE THAT NATO BRUSSELS WOULD BE AN APPROPRIATE FORUM FOR INFORMAL CONSULTATIONS WITH THE FRENCH ON THESE TWO SUBJECTS. NEVERTHELESS, WE WOULD BE PREPARED TO PROVIDE THIS NUNN AMENDMENT AND REFORGER INFORMATION TO THE FRENCH IN PARIS IF WASHINGTON AND/OR USNATO PREFER.
RUSH

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